

the constellations^a depart, with the
night, like
thieves.

3. His illuminating rays behold men in
succession,
like blazing, fires.

4. Thou, StfRYAj outstrippest all in
speed ;^b thou.
art visible to all; thou art the source of
light ;^c thou
shinest throughout the entire firmament.

^a *Nakskatrd*, the stars in general, or the lunar
asterisms,
which, according to different texts, are considered to
be the abodes
of the gods, or the visible forms of pious persons
after death; as,
Devagrikd mi nafaltatrdni, The constellations are,
verily, the dwell-
ings of the gods; and, again, *Yo vd ilia yt(j^t& ^m-mn*
lokam *naJc-*
sJiate^ either, He who performs worship here
obtains the nest
world, or, *Sukritdm'vdetdmjyotmski j/an*
nahJidtrdn^ Those con-
stellations are the luminaries of those who practise
religious acts,
that is, according to *Sdyautt*, those who, by
attending to religious
duties in this world, attain *Swarga^* are beheld in
the of con-
stellations,— *-ilia, lolce hinndmtsMMya ye sawf/am*
•prdpnuvanti *te*
naksluttrarupena drisyante.

^b *Buy ana* says, that, according to the *Smṛiti*, the
sun moves
2,202 *yojanas* in half a twinkle of the eye.

^c *Jyotislikrit*, giving light to all things, even to
the moon and
the planets, by night: for they, it is said, are of a
watery sub-
stance, from which the rays of the sun are
reflected; in like man-
ner as the rays of the sun, falling upon a mirror
placed in the
doorway of a chamber, are reflected into the

interior, and give it
light. *Sdyatla* also explains the whole ^passage
metaphysically,
identifying the sun with the supreme spirit, who
enables all
beings to pass over the ocean of existence, who is
beheld by all
desirous of final emancipation, who is the author
of true or
spiritual light, and who renders everything
lundnotis through the
light of the mind.